LEAGUE TABLES.

First Division.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Brighton	8	7	0	1	26	8	15
Box Hill	9	6	2	1	30	23	13
Prahran	9	6	3	0	28	24	12
Moreland	9	5	3	1	32	22	11
Park Rangers	9	4	4	1	21	13	9
Bradford	8	3	4	1	17	17	7
South Yarra	9	2	4	3	17	20	7
Sunshine	9	3	6	0	24	34	6
Yallourn	9	2	7	0	21	32	4
West Suburbs	9	2	7	0	15	38	4

Second Division.

Sth. Melbourne	9	8	0	1	41	9	17
Sandringham	9	8	0	1	29	9	17
Hakoah	9	6	3	0	41	17	12
University	9	5	3	1	24	14	11
Ringwood	9	5	4	0	14	13	10
Heidelberg	9	4	5	0	10	21	8
Preston	9	2	4	3	18	20	7
Yarraville	9	1	6	2	14	26	4
Olympic	9	1	7	1	9	42	3
Williamstown	9	0	8	1	13	42	1

Third Division.

Juventus	8	8	0	0	43	5	16
George Cross	8	7	1	0	31	7	14
Fifers	8	7	1	0	30	8	14x
Woodlands	9	5	3	1	18	12	11
Northcote	9	5	4	0	26	21	10
Metters	8	4	4	0	19	32	8
W'town "B"	5	2	3	0	9	2	4
Macedonians	8	2	6	0	6	27	4
Brighton	8	1	6	1	25	37	3
Y.C.W.M.	6	1	5	0	4	14	2
Woodlands "A"	8	1	7	0	6	41	2x
Box Hill	4	1	3	0	1	12	2

x No result notified.

First Division Reserves.

Park Rangers	9	9	0	0	34	4	18
Brighton	9	8	1	0	52	11	16
Prahran	9	5	3	0	37	21	12
South Yarra	9	4	4	1	26	29	9
Yallourn	9	4	4	1	19	26	9
Box Hill	9	4	4	1	16	24	9
Bradford	9	2	5	2	15	21	6
Moreland	9	1	6	2	13	27	4
Sunshine Utd.	9	1	6	2	8	38	4
West. Suburbs	9	1	7	1	18	37	3

Second Division Reserves.

Hakoah	9	8	1	0	45	5	16
Sandringham	9	8	1	0	36	10	16
Sth. Melb. Untd.	9	6	2	1	29	14	13
Ringwood	9	5	3	1	30	21	11
Preston	9	5	4	0	19	16	10
Heidelberg	9	4	5	0	16	24	8
Olympic	9	3	5	1	11	22	7
Williamstown	9	2	6	1	16	20	5
University	9	1	8	0	6	27	2
Yarraville	9	1	8	0	9	58	2

JUNIOR LEAGUE LADDERS.

Under 19 Division.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Yallourn	9	9	0	0	28	6	18
Box Hill	9	7	1	1	14	6	15
West. Suburbs	9	6	2	1	25	12	14
Preston	9	6	1	2	25	10	13
Brighton	9	5	0	4	11	17	10
Hakoah J.R.C.	9	4	0	5	8	12	8
South Yarra	9	3	0	6	8	24	6
Park Rangers	9	2	0	7	5	37	4

Under 17 Division.

Sth. Melb. Utd.	9	9	0	0	46	3	18
Preston	9	7	1	1	34	13	15
Sunshine Utd.	9	6	2	1	18	6	14
Sandringham C.	9	5	0	4	20	14	10
Bradford	9	5	0	4	6	21	10
Coburg	9	4	1	4	11	10	9
Park Rangers	9	4	1	4	9	30	9
Brighton	9	4	0	5	14	22	8
Metters	9	3	1	5	18	30	7
Ringwood	9	3	0	6	6	16	6
Northcote	9	1	0	8	3	20	2

Under 15 Division.

Sth. Melb. Utd.	9	9	0	0	49	6	18
Box Hill	9	8	0	1	45	14	16
Preston	9	6	1	2	23	16	13
Sunshine Utd.	9	4	2	3	34	13	10
Brighton	9	3	2	4	21	10	8
West. Suburbs	8	2	3	3	12	21	7
Ringwood	9	3	0	6	24	18	6
Northcote	8	1	2	5	8	21	4
Sandringham C.	9	1	2	6	9	42	4
Park Rangers	9	1	0	8	5	69	2

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Official Organ of the Victorian Soccer Football Association

Soccer News

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NO CHALLENGE TO AUSTRALIAN RULES.

The Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956 will certainly give soccer a boost and the game is bound to make some progress in the years ahead, but those who believe it will be challenging the popularity of the Australian game within ten years are deluding themselves.

That's my view. Here's a few points to support it.

There is a big influx of players from overseas, and talk of representing Australia at the Melbourne Olympics may make good propagander, but it must be remembered that the best of the imported players will not be seen in action. Most of them are — or were — professionals, and therefore are not eligible for the Olympics.

Will Australia be able to put up a better show than England's best amateur team did at the last Olympics? A thrashing could have an adverse effect on progress.

Amateur soccer is far removed from English Cup Tie standard and football fans of any code will not go to see poor players in action.

In the meantime, many migrants absorbed into the Australian way of life will become "converts" to the Australian game. Many have done so already — having lost the partisan spirit which made them fanatical stalwarts of their teams back home. Club tradition has to be built up to encourage supporters.

It would be foolish to think that soccer has more to offer Australian people than their own game.

When you line yourself up against Australian football you are entering a highly commercialised field — a professional game which is growing financially stronger each year.

In Melbourne alone, Australian football attracts more than 100,000 people to the six main games each week — figures which far exceed the ratio of supporters per population of any other sport in the world.

These people provide the finance which keeps the game going. Soccer is not in the

INCREASE IN PRICE.

Owing to the loss incurred through insufficient sales to cover running expenses, it has been found necessary to increase the price of Soccer News to fourpence, as from the current issue. This decision was made by the Council at its meeting last Thursday.

We regret having to increase the price, but the only other alternative would have been to cease publication, as the possible loss over the season would have been too great a strain on the Asociation's finances.

race without big gates — provided by well equipped enclosed grounds.

Where are these grounds available for soccer?

Soccer will be developed in the schools, more and more junion competitions will be formed, but before real progress can be made thousands of supporters are needed to supply the finance to keep these competitons going.

Australian football officials have no objection to soccer. Although they rightly claim that theirs is the fastest and most spectacular game in the world, they admit that soccer is a good scientific game.

However, while Australian football commands such public-wide interest it is going to take more than hope and ambition for soccer to make even steady progress during the next decade, let alone reach any degree of parity.

"Observer."

Letters to the Editor

INCONSISTENCY.

If the Referees' Association is sincere in its attempt to improve the game in Victoria and to obtain increased fees, the executive will have to make sure that competent officials are available. The greatest asset a referee should possess is consistency in his decisions. It is disturbing to players when a referee penalises a fault on one occasion and allows it to go unpunished on another.

I pass this comment giving due regard to the discretionary powers of the knight of the whistle. Judging by recent comments I am not alone in raising this matter, and would suggest the Referees' Association take the matter in hand.

A. Johnston, Malvern.

POOR PROGRESS.

Re last week's article (Search For New Clubs) by V. J. M. Dixon, before we form new clubs the Association should see that existing clubs are satisfactorily managed and that all teams fulfil their engagements.

After the fixtures were drawn up this year they were upset by Coburg's relegation from Second to Third Division, and finally the withdrawal of their senior team from the competition.

Some clubs in the first division do not field junior teams. The Association should investigate the possibilities of Moreland Club fostering the Coburg junior (at present carrying on alone).

Far too often, Reserve teams default and no advice is sent either to the opposing teams or the Association. League Ladders are incomplete because results are not notified at the proper time.

We only have to look at the lack of progress of Soccer News to realise that there is both a lack of enthusiasm and bad management by club committees.

Few First Division clubs send reports of their games to Soccer News because they have no press correspondent (and no one is willing to do the job).

Our paper's circulation is virtually the same as last year, although clubs were asked to increase their quotas.

Each week I notice that spectators are unable to buy a copy, when 100 to 150 could be sold without effort.

The Council is not blameless regarding management, as the "propaganda" committee and Soccer News committee have given no indication through the News of any of their plans for more publicity for soccer.

We must elect to those committees, councillors with ideas and officials who are prepared to show the enthusiam required to get things done.

A. S. Jarvis.

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REFEREE'S REPLY.

In answer to Don Bingham, Sandringham (11/6/49), I point out that he has seen only some of the older (but still very capable) referees. Some of us younger ones did not get the chance to officiate at first class games. Moreover, Australian rules umpires get up to £4/4/- per game.

Let us have less arguing and appealing by players and spectators, and soccer will be faster and more interesting.

H. A. Cass, St. Kilda, Y.S.F.R.A.

QUESTION.

A team plays one or two men short. During the game a player arrives and the club wants him to play, although there are only 9 or 10 names on the team sheet which has been handed to the referee. Is the referee justified in refusing permission to include a player after the game commences?

P. McCord, Yarraville.

Club Jottings.

WASTED OPPORTUNITIES.

Park Rangers thoroughly deserved their 6—2 victory over Prahran at Middle Park. The winning margin might have been greater but for wasted opportunities. The home team started with the obvious intention of preventing the visitors from settling down, and almost opened their account in the first minute when a header hit the corner of the goal and the Prahran defence managed to scramble the ball away. Keen tackling, non-stop football and good centres from both wings often had the visiting defenders in trouble. The Ranger's goals came from Forrest (3), who played instead of Cottrell (injured); Wilson, Gillies and Highett (penalty). Prahran replied through Taylor (penalty) and J. Mackie (own goal).

Prahran did not produce the brand of football they have shown in previous games, while Rangers excelled themselves. The game was played at a fast pace, with the home players having the edge on their opponents throughout. Prahran contested every inch of ground, but could not cope with the often bewildering moves of the Park players.

Take Up The Gauntlet!

WHEN, in olden days, the mediaeval knight flung down his gauntlet as a token of challenge to combat, his antagonist, by taking up the gage, pledged himself to appear on the field of honor. Life in modern times is a struggle to be fought and won. With THRIFT as your mentor you can take up the gauntlet with confidence, for success in life, a better scale of living, happiness and security can be brought about by regular saving.

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"LOCAL DERBY."

W.S. triumphed over Sunshine United in the "local Derby" by 3 goals to one. That victory was deserved is not to be denied. Playing systematic football, Suburbs had a 3 goal lead at half time. During the second half, Sunshine took up the initiative, and reduced the lead with a goal scored by a penalty kick (Evans). Goal scorers: Cox 2, H. Taylor 1.

The reserves game was even, and with the score reading 2—2 and about 25 minutes to play, the referee abandoned the game. The game will no doubt be replayed at a later date.

The junior team added 2 points to its tally by defeating Park Rangers. A number of new boys were tried out, and they acquitted themselves creditably. The final score of 4—1 was thoroughly deserved. Scorers: Eagleton 2, Woods 1, Gibson 1.

REORGANISED.

South Yarra v. Yallourn at Fawkner Park was very important to both clubs regarding relegation. Yarra reorganised their forward line in the absence of Stoddart. Early exchanges were even, both defences being strong and play being mainly midfield. Good work on Yarra's left wing resulted in K. Lott opening the scoring with a well placed shot. Yallourn came more into the game, but found Yarra's defence too strong. From a breakaway, K. Litt notched number two for Yarra, the ball slipping through Yallourn keeper's hand. Just on halftime Yallourn reduced the lead, when a good goal came from a free kick. Second half was much the same as first, both defences being too good for opponents. South Yarra went further ahead through K. Lott's anticipation in following up and lobbing the ball over the goalies' head into the net. The game finished with South Yarra holding their lead.

Most of us work alright after we get started, but we're so darned hard to start.

NEW SECRETARY.

Mr. P. McCord has been appointed secretary of Yarraville Soccer Club following the resignation of Mr. Brydson.

The club will hold a dance on Thursday evening, June 23, in the Footscray Town Hall. Tickets available from social secretary, Mr. T. Baker.

OUTCLASSED.

South Melbourne United outclassed Hakoah 6—1 in its final match of the first half of the League programme. South were without Cormack (captain), his place at full back being filled by Bickerton from the Reserves.

At halftime the scores were level, 1 goal each, but after the interval South showed superiority and took command of the game.

All players performed well, and Jones, South's young goal-keeper, particularly impressed with his fine, cool play. Jones has a safe pair of hands, and was applauded time and again by the large crowd for his fine saves.

Goal scorers for South: Tainsh 2, Cahill 2, Dorrington 1, Knowles 1.

South's Reserve team won by 2 goals to 1 against Hakoah Reserves, who until last Saturday were undefeated.

The Juniors continued on their winning way, the Under 17's defeating Ringwood by 4 goals to nil, and the Under 15's winning against Brighton by 1—0. Goal scorers for the Under 17's: Stiles 2, Forfar 1, Tomlinson 1. Under 15's: Graeme James scored the only goal of the match.

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BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

A Spectator Stored a Goal and Decided an Important Game at Middle Park.

Hakoah J.R.C. played last Saturday at Middle Park versus South Melbourne United Reserve. Hakoah was leading 1—0 in the second half time as a ball went in the out area next to the goal posts. A spectator standing nearby passed the ball in the goal, and as the referee had not seen the kicker and only saw the ball in the net, he gave goal and did not change his decision. Hakoah J.R.C. protested but decided to continue the game, which was lost by a penalty a few minutes later. The spectator gave his name with Mr. J. Martin, 10 Wattle Grove, Bentleigh, and explained after the game again that he had kicked the goal, a fact which was stated by some South Melbourne players and other spectators. Hakoah J.R.C. has lodged a protest with the V.S.F.A. It would be a pity if a serious league game would be decided by an outsider.

We hope that this incident will give referees and club officials a pointer to clear the goal area from spectators.

FRIENDLY GAME.

With a mixed team of Juniors, Reserves and first team, South Yarra played a friendly game with a ship's crew ("Erica") on Sunday. What a good game it was. "Erica's" team included a number of natives from South Africa. Their speed and ball control was really something, and the game was a cracker, with the visitors playing the best football. They well merited their lead at halftime. In the second half "Erica," through the loss of one of their men, were gradually penned in and South Yarra soon evened the scores. The game finished 2—2.

He must have been Treasurer of a Soccer Club.

* * *

JUNIOR GAME.

The Junior game at North Footscray was a victory for Brighton by 5 goals to 3. Metters, with a lead of 3 goals to 1 in the first half, had Brighton full backs and goalkeeper battling hard to keep them out. Brighton, getting another goal just before the half-time whistle, gave them more heart in the second half. Metters' half-back line couldn't hold the Brighton Boys.

Third Division Clubs and Juniors—Metters' ground is in North Footscray, not at North Fitzroy, as printed in the Red Hand Book.

* * *

HOW THEY LAST FARED.

To-day will commence the second half of the home and away fixtures; the following is a list of how teams fared when they last met on April 16th:

First Division.

Bradford 0, South Yarra 0.
Brighton 3, Sunshine United 0.
Box Hill 2, Western Suburbs 1.
Moreland 2, Park Rangers 2.
Prahran 4, Yallourn 0.

Second Division.

Sandringham City 5, Hakoah 4.
South Melbourne United 3, University 2.
Yarraville 3, Olympic 2.
Ringwood 2, Preston 1.

PAYMENT FOR SOCCER NEWS.—All future payments from Clubs for Soccer News are to be forwarded to Mr. A Mackie, Kerferd Place, Albert Park, S.C.6.

JUVENTUS WIN AGAIN.

A keen, fast game was played last Saturday at Royal Park, when the Third Division leaders, Juventus, won the day against Y.C.W.M. by 3 goals to nil. A good crowd witnessed this match, and the visitors from Broadmeadows impressed with their good, clean play. Goal scorer for the winning team was Wevilda (C.F.), who scored all three goals. Wevildo, although playing for the Italian team, is of German birth, and this was his first match for Juventus. He was among the outstanding players of the day, as also Carroll (right-back), Fransesconi (centre half), and Tieffo (left back).

★ ★ ★

IMPRESSIVE TEAM.

Box Hill met Moreland at Surrey Park. As Moreland had defeated Sunshine by 10 goals to 3 the previous week, a hard game was anticipated.

The first half showed Moreland to be impressive, and their forwards gave Box Hill a lesson in team work. Gilbert at centre-half, Perry at left-half, Hardman and Grice right wing, were prominent for Moreland, and Box Hill found themselves down 4 goals to 1 at the interval.

Box Hill had failed to reproduce their form of the previous week, but in the second half, playing a bustling game and with more determination, the score was eventually levelled at 4 all. Moreland came again and when Hardman got through on his own they were in front. Box Hill scored again, but Moreland finally won 6 goals to 5 as a result of a penalty in the last few minutes.

Moreland won mainly because of the offside tactics applied by their defence, which nullified the Box Hill forwards.

Best players for Box Hill: Taylor (goal), Brown (centre half), and MacDonald (inside-right), who has scored 3 goals in each of the last 3 games.

★ ★ ★

HEAVY WEEK-END.

Sandringham were given a shock against Williamstown, just getting home in the last five minutes.

City's team was reorganized through injuries, Don Bingham suffering with a bruised bone in the leg was replaced by Ted Costelloe, and George Sweeney taking Jock Woods' place.

Alf Finney was under notice on the left wing as also Arthur Hammond on the right wing, but Joe Walton and Roger Parven were both off the target with their shots.

The Reserve team have moved level with Hakoah Reserves, and are lying second on goal average.

Sunday saw the City travel down to Flinders Naval Depot (three Parlor coaches, about 90 people). We had an extra good day, being well treated by the Navy. We were defeated 2 goals to 1 by the Depot (we are still looking for our manager's teeth).

The Navy has a good team, mostly overseas personnel, and will be a force to reckon with in the Dockerty Cup.

City will look back on King's Birthday week-end as a big achievement for a new club.

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DISTRIBUTION OF "SOCCER NEWS."

The following is a list of Clubs and the number of "Soccer News" distributed weekly by that Club:—Bradford, 50; South Yarra, 40; Sunshine United, 40; Brighton, 75; Western Suburbs, 40; Moreland, 30; Box Hill, 72; Prahran, 50; Park Rangers, 70; Yallourn, 60; Hakoah, 50; Sandringham City, 50; South Melbourne United, 60; University, 24; Olympic, 20; Yarraville, 24; Preston, 50; Ringwood, 60; Heidelberg, 20; Williamstown, 36; Juventus, 30; George Cross, 20; Fifers, 12; Macedonians, 18; Woodlands, 24; Metters, 36; Coburg, 20; and Northcote, 15.

★ ★ ★

JUNIOR ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The half-way stage of the home and away games was reached last Saturday. Yallourn (Under 19 Section) and South Melbourne United (Under 15 Section) came through with maximum points. The half-way stage of the Under 17 Section has two more weeks to run before being completed. South Melbourne United are yet undefeated.

To-morrow (Sunday) at 1.30 p.m. Interstate Trial matches will continue for the Under 15 Section, and at 2.40 p.m. two specially selected Association Under 17 teams will compete

Under 15 players, as announced in last week's issue, will report to Mr. Shingles at 1 p.m. at the Chalet Tennis Courts, Middle Park, and four players from each Under 17 team will report to Mr. Rickerby at the same place at 2 p.m.

The following Trials will be on Sunday, July 3, at Middle Park—Under 15 match at 1.30 p.m., and a selected Under 19 team versus a selected Under 17 team at 2.40 p.m.

..Mr. T. Dignam, vice-president of the Junior Association, and a school teacher of the Preston Technical School, has been appointed as additional selector of the Under 15 Division, in place of Mr. H. Wookey (resigned).

A metropolitan team, selected from players of the Under 19 and Under 17 Divisions, is to visit Yallourn later in the season to play Yallourn's Under 19 team.

From this match it is likely that the Victorian State team will be selected to play South Australia in Melbourne at the end of the season.

Junior clubs and players are advised that the "Double-Tackle" in soccer is illegal. Club referees of Junior matches are asked to watch for this infringement and use the whistle freely. The "Double-Tackle" is jumping at an opponent with two feet off the ground, and is officially regarded as dangerous play by referees.

The Junior Association has formed a Social Committee for improving the Association's finances, and to assist in bringing together members of Junior teams in a social atmosphere. Watch these columns for Junior social activities. All players and non-players are urged to support activities arranged. It is to your benefit to do so.

The Victorian Council has decided that all senior and reserve matches will, at a date to be determined, commence at 2.45 p.m. instead of 3 p.m. Commencing the same date, the Junior Association's Under 19 and Uuner 17 matches will commence at 1.15 p.m. instead of 1.30 p.m.

The only value of time is its use.

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